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Norman Cross
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District

during the year 1955.

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To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health F. D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector H. E. REEVE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector A. E. BENNETT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	.....	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1955)	.....	8820
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1955	.....	2472
Rateable Value, 31/12/55	.....	£36,148
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/1955	.....	£145

The general health of the district remains very good indeed.

There is an increase in the birth rate over last year and the infantile mortality rate remains low. The death rate, while slightly higher than last year, still compares favourably with that for the remainder of the Country as a whole.

Social conditions during the year show little alteration, and there is still no shortage of employment with a large proportion of the population engaged in agriculture, the brick-yards, and in the engineering and other industrial concerns in Peterborough and Old Fletton. In spite of this, there is little tendency for the population to increase. In the more isolated parishes, where many modern amenities are not available, and especially where a public transport service is infrequent or absent altogether, there is a tendency for a rather more frequent turn-over of the population which may well become a steady drift in the future. The agricultural worker, if he is to be retained in his village, must be provided, as far as possible, with those facilities for his family which the town dweller enjoys as a matter of course. The Council's progressive water and main drainage schemes, the latter almost complete, have already done and will do a great deal to improve conditions and it is hoped to see main drainage extended to include other parts of the district in the not too distant future. With regard to mains water supply, although the distribution

system is very satisfactory in extent, as there are now few parts of the district not covered by a piped supply and even these should have a supply available in the course of a year or two, the continued lack of pressure at the source gives rise to very great anxiety. The rapid expansion taking place in neighbouring districts is putting an increasing demand on consumption to the detriment of the pressure in the joint main and until the major projected works to improve the supply position are completed in co-operation with the Old Fletton U.D.C. no improvement in what may well become a desperate situation can be anticipated. The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector is to be congratulated on the regularity of the refuse collection and particularly on arrangements made to cover holiday periods. Nevertheless it is felt that an interval of a fortnight between collections, especially in the more densely populated parts of the district, is too long. One should also like to see a definite system of controlled tipping introduced even if this entails curtailing the number of tips at present in use. More and better housing conditions are still an urgent necessity, too many residents in the district are living in unsatisfactory circumstances and more vigorous action must be taken in this matter, if the Council are to deal with their slum clearance problem in the initial five year period. It is felt that it should be generally realized what an important factor the village infant school is in relation to the life of the parish. Mothers do not tend to settle with equanimity in a village where their five year olds have to face a long walk or bus journey to and from school. Conditions too, in some schools leave a great deal to be desired with special reference to environmental hygiene and sanitation.

There was a welcome fall in the incidence of tuberculosis during the year, two new cases only being notified as against fifteen in the preceding year. There is however no room for complacency when it is remembered how important a part good housing conditions play in prevention. No case of poliomyelitis or diphtheria was reported. With regard to poliomyelitis it is anticipated that immunisation will give us a welcome and substantial measure of control in the future. In the case of diphtheria, immunisation has given us a measure of control which could be virtually absolute if all parents would ensure that their children were immunised as young as possible and at the latest by their first birthday. Perhaps—there being 33 cases of whooping cough notified during the year—the proposed introduction of immunisation measures against both diphtheria and whooping cough in a combined course under County Council arrangements may help to evoke an earlier response. One feels that immunisation against tetanus also is worthy of consideration especially in a district in which a relatively high proportion of the population is engaged in agriculture.

During the year there were two incidents involving paratyphoid fever. In the first, in which an outbreak occurred in the Peterborough Memorial Hospital, a great deal of work was incurred in screening the large number of contacts involved on discharge from hospital. In

the second incident involving one case only in the district, the infection was traced to the Continent. On neither occasions was there any secondary spread.

Once again I should like to thank all the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration to me, and to all the Council's Officers for their ever ready help and co-operation during yet another year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

Birth Rate per 1000 population 15.6

STILL BIRTHS

Rate per 1000 total births 14.3

DEATHS

Death rate per 1000 population 9.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes
per 1000 total (live and still) births Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births 21.7

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 15.9

Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ 83.3

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Actual Number of Deaths	5	5	3	1	3	3
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	29.2	34.0	22.4	7.2	28.3	21.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 21

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 LiveBirths
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Stand-ardized Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Norman Cross R.D.C.	15.6	0.2	9.9	10.9	21.7
England & Wales	15.0	0.35	11.7	11.7	25.9

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.		46	41	87
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	.....	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	.....	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .....	.....	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	.....	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	.....	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .....	.....	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis .....	.....	—	—	—
8. Measles .....	.....	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases .....	.....	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	.....	2	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	.....	2	—	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	.....	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	.....	—	2	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .....	.....	6	6	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	.....	—	—	—
16. Diabetes .....	.....	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	.....	6	7	13
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	.....	5	4	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	.....	2	—	2
20. Other heart disease .....	.....	7	10	17
21. Other circulatory disease .....	.....	—	2	2
22. Influenza .....	.....	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia .....	.....	1	—	1
24. Bronchitis .....	.....	1	2	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	.....	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum .....	.....	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea .....	.....	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis .....	.....	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	.....	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	.....	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .....	.....	—	1	1
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases .....	.....	8	3	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	.....	2	—	2
34. All other accidents .....	.....	1	—	1
35. Suicide .....	.....	1	—	1
36. Homicide & operations of war .....	.....	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities :

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities :

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases the area is covered by the ambulance service of the Soke of Peterborough County Council under an agreement with Huntingdon County Council, which is the Local Health Authority responsible. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

(c) Nursing in the Home :

Nursing in the district is carried on by two qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres :

Infant Welfare work in the district is still carried out by the Fletton and District Infant and Child Welfare Association by arrangement with Huntingdon County Council, the Welfare Clinic being held at London Road, Old Fletton, every week on Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

YAXLEY.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Stretton Hall every 4th Friday in the month from 2-30—4 p.m.

ELTON

The Infant Welfare Centre is held at the Highgate Hall on the 2nd Thursday each month at 2-30—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 10—12.
School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	Stretton Hall, Yaxley Every 4th Friday 10—12.
Eyes	.....	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	.....	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	.....	1, Thorpe Road, Peterborough, Every Monday 2—4 p.m. By Appt.
Orthopaedic	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 2nd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Women Only—Wednesday 5.30— 7 p.m. Friday 10.30—12 noon. Men Only—Monday 5.30—7 p.m. Thursday 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals :**

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Peterborough.
- (2) General hospital services including Out-patient facilities are provided at Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity Cases at The Gables, Peterborough, or the Maternity Hospital, Primrose Lane, Huntingdon.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Booster Station,
Yaxley,

26th June, 1956.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I have the honour to present my Sixth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

HOUSING

(a) **By Council**—The number of new dwellings built since 1945 is as follows :—

Up to 31st Dec. 1953.		During 1954.		During 1955.
Folksworth	2	Farcet	2	Orton Waterville 2
Chesterton	2	Glatton	2	Yaxley—Road, Sewers
Orton Waterville	8	Morborne	4	water mains etc. for
Stilton	24	Stilton	4	54 houses.
Farcet	42			
Elton	18			
Yaxley	34			
Orton Longueville	6			
Stibbington	2			
Alwalton	4			
Holme	8			
Glatton	2			
	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	152		12	2 166

Temporary dwellings adapted and in use :—

Holmewood	11	Sibson Camp	26	37
				<hr/>
			Families Accommodated	203

In course of erection at the end of 1955 :—

Yaxley Broadway 54 Houses.

Plans approved or in preparation :—

Yaxley Broadway 60 Houses (approx.) Orton Longueville 6 Houses.
Holmewood 8 Houses and 4 Bungalows.

(b) **By Private Developers:**—The number of houses completed since January, 1947, is as follows:—

1947—9 houses and 2 bungalows	—	11
1948—7 houses and 6 reconstructed	—	13
1949—7 houses	—	7
1950—4 houses	—	4
1951—4 houses	—	4
1952—2 houses and 3 bungalows	—	5
1953—20 houses and 6 bungalows	—	26
1954—20 houses and 26 bungalows	—	46

Total Dwellings 116

Completed during 1955 :—

Alwalton	1 house	—	1
Denton and Caldecote	1 house	—	1
Farcet	1 bungalow	—	1
Folksworth	1 bungalow	—	1
Holme	1 house	—	1
Orton Longueville	9 houses and 17 bungalows	—	26
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	1 house and 1 bungalow	—	2
Stilton	3 houses	—	3
Yaxley	6 houses and 4 bungalows	—	10
Total for 1955	24 houses and 26 bungalows	—	50

Total of Private Dwellings since 1947 :—

103 houses and 63 bungalows — **166 Dwellings**

Private Dwellings under Construction at 31st December, 1955 :

16 houses and 14 bungalows — **30 Dwellings**

Private enterprise housing—again exceeded the previous year's figures, and building is continuing at a satisfactory rate. Plans have been deposited which will enable private building to proceed for several years, and I think it would be helpful to all prospective house owners to repeat the advice given to those who are seen at the office when considering building; at these interviews it is always stressed that it is just as important to have an architect to supervise the building work as to prepare the plans. It is surprising how many people, otherwise careful, will build a house without a contract or other safeguard.

The Council building programme was mainly concentrated on the Yaxley Broadway site, where roads have been constructed, services laid, and fair progress made on the first 54 dwellings.

The report required by the Minister setting out the estimated number of unfit houses in the district, and a 5 year programme of action to deal with them, was submitted in August 1955. 356 properties (11.5%) were considered unfit and not repairable at reasonable cost, and although some of these may be improved and others vacated, it is obvious that for the next 5 years at least 60 houses per year will be required to re-house people from Slum Clearance areas and individually unfit houses. Detailed inspections are being carried out to enable proposals for the first years programme to be placed before the Council.

In temporary housing one of the hutted sites at Sibson Camp was cleared and numbers somewhat reduced on the other two. These huts, first used for housing in 1948, were intended as a purely temporary measure and should be cleared as soon as possible; re-housing seems the only answer. The Airfield Site, controlled by the Agricultural Commission presents a similar problem. Plans are being prepared for permanent dwellings to replace the Nissen Bungalows on the Holmewood Site.

Eight Improvement Grant applications were received and work is proceeding on six of the properties.

WATER SUPPLY.

There was a further deterioration in the pressure at Broadway, Yaxley, and it is hoped that the preparations for the joint scheme of main laying and pressurisations proposed to be carried out by the Old Fletton Urban and Norman Cross Rural Councils will be far enough advanced for a Ministry Enquiry to be held early in 1956. A mechanical clock control was fitted at Fletton Avenue Booster Station, and this made possible a more accurate and flexible control of the pumps; there is however, no substitute for the full scheme, which is really urgent.

Water Contract No. 8. for laying 18 miles of mains in Fens and outlying areas went to tender again, and it is possible that this scheme may commence in 1956.

53 Domestic, 19 metered and 63 buildings supplies have been connected during the year. 29 burst mains and 42 burst services have been repaired, shewing that the outdoor staff have again been fully occupied.

Regular samples of water have been taken for bacteriological examination.

Various small works have been commenced including the re-roofing of the Orton Longueville Booster Station.

DRAINAGE.

Contract No. 6 for the sewerage of the Parishes of Yaxley, Farcet, Stilton, Orton Longueville and Orton Waterville was completed before the end of the year, but could not be put into use because extensions to the Old Fletton U.D.C.'s Disposal Works were not ready. The whole scheme should be completed early in 1956, and will enable many nuisances to be abated and the benefits of modern drainage to be available in five of the largest Parishes. Several other Parishes require sewerage, particularly Elton, Glatton, Holme and Stibbington, where water-borne sewage disposal would enable the villages to be developed and nuisances abated. The disposal of drainage in areas such as Norman Cross Rural, where the subsoil is heavy clay, causes many difficulties, and restricts development.

The small disposal works at Pingle Bank Holme is now working satisfactorily, a new drain being laid to disconnect surface water.

Several small works of drainage, including a road crossing at Elton, have been carried out.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The usual fortnightly collection of refuse and waste paper was continued. In order to avoid the difficulty at holiday times, when several villages have in the past had no collection for a month, a private contractor was engaged at Easter, Whitsun, August and Xmas and carried out the collections a day or two later. It is hoped in 1956 it may be possible now that a relief driver is available to keep the Council's vehicle running every week, instead of closing down for a holiday period.

The present Dennis Vehicle has been in use 7 years, and replacement will soon be necessary. A new garage to replace the old Nissen hut at Yaxley Booster Station will also be required.

If further labour could be obtained it would be possible to suggest improvements to this scheme, but at present Local Authority employment conditions cannot compete with local industry. Four of the outside staff left during the year, and although they have gradually been replaced, such movement of labour is bound to effect the smooth running of any department. There is nationwide difficulty in recruiting labour for refuse collection, and bonus schemes and other inducements are becoming necessary.

FOOD.

Authority for Meat and Food Inspection will be returned to the District Council on 1st April 1956, and this with the new Food Hygiene Regulations which are to become law will make further interesting and useful work.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Deposited Plans—Plans and applications received during the year were as follows :—

New Houses	31	Conversions to dwellings	4
Bungalows	37	Electricity lines	12
Garden Tool & Store Shed	7	Greenhouses	1
Agricultural Buildings	6	Miscellaneous	20
Garages	45	Warehouses & Stores	1
Outline Applications	25	Bus Passenger Shelters	1
Notices and signs	4	Shops	3
Alterations & Additions	27	Caravans	11
Pigsties	4	Caravan Site	1

Individual Caravan licences in force—24

Visits—A summary of visits by Sanitary Inspectors is as follows :—

New Buildings	330	Housing Acts	556
Sewers and drains	370	Caravans	14
Refuse Collection	73	Civil Defence	16
Water Supply	139	Council & Committee Meetings & Conferences	44
Infectious Diseases and food poisoning	261	Vermin	4
Council Housing	589	Rodents	44
Food	51	Interviews	1262
Factories	12	Miscellaneous	191

In conclusion may I thank the Council, my colleagues and the staff for their help during another busy year.

H. ERIC REEVE,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1955.

Total Deaths	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Cases admitted to Hospital	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	2	|	1	|
65 & upwards	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
45 — 65	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	1	|	1	|	|	|
35 — 45	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
20 — 35	|	|	|	|	|	1	1	|	|	|	2	|	|
15 — 20	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|
10 — 15	|	|	|	|	|	|	3	|	|	1	|	|	|
5 — 10	|	|	1	|	|	4	50	18	|	|	|	|	|
4 — 5	|	|	|	|	|	1	13	5	|	|	|	|	|
3 — 4	|	|	|	|	|	1	8	2	|	|	|	|	|
2 — 3	|	|	1	|	|	|	10	2	|	|	|	|	|
1 — 2	|	|	|	|	|	|	5	3	|	|	|	|	|
under 1 year	|	|	|	|	|	|	5	2	|	|	|	1	1
TOTAL	|	|	2	|	|	10	96	33	|	2	2	1	1
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Paratyphoid	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meningococcal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,
Your obedient servant,
F. D. F. STEEDE,
Medical Officer of Health.

